

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 044021
ORIGIN NEA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY:NEA:RNEUMANN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS NIACT IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NICOSIA 0452 ACTION SECSTATE INFO CAIRO,
TEL AVIV, BEIRUT, DAMASCUS, AMMAN, JIDDA, ATHENS AND ANKARA
FEB 18.

QUOTE: UNCLAS NICOSIA 0452

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PPUS, PORS, CY

SUBJECT: ATTACK BY PALESTINIAN TERRORIST IN NICOSIA

REF NICOSIA 0451

1. A RELIABLE SOURCE AT HILTON HOTEL INFORMED THAT TWO TERRORISTS
WITH TWO MACHINE GUNS AND GRENADES HOLDING APPROXIMATELY SEVENTY
(70) HOSTAGES, ALL MALE, AT HOTEL COFFEE SHOP, NOT BAR, AS
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. TWO FEMALE HOSTAGES RELEASED.

2. LOCAL RADIO REPORTS TWO "COMMANDOS" OF UNKNOWN NATIONALITY,
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BUT NOT CYPRIOT, OPENED FIRE AT SITE OF AAPSO CONFERENCE,
KILLING HEAD OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION UYSUF AL-SIBAI. AREA HAS BEEN
SEALED OFF AND INTERIOR MINISTER VENIAMIN, ACTING FONMIN
PATSAIDES AND OTHER GOC OFFICIALS ARE ON THE SCENE. EMBASSY
POLICEMAN REPORTS THAT CONTACT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BETWEEN GOC
OFFICIALS AND TERRORISTS IN ORDER START NEGOTIATIONS.

3. LATEST ITEM. AT 1300 HOURS LOCAL WE RECEIVED REPORT THAT THERE
APPEAR TO BE NO AMERICAN HOSTAGES BUT THIS NOT CONFIRMED.
TERRORISTS ARE SEPARATING HOSTAGES BY NATIONALITY, I.E. THOSE
THEY VIEW AS FRIENDLY, THOSE PROBABLY NOT FRIENDLY TO THEIR
CAUSE. TERRORISTS, ONE OF WHOM SPEAKS BROKEN ENGLISH, STATED
THEY ARE PLEADING THE PALESTINIAN CASE. THEY DEMANDED BUS,
WHICH NOW SITUATED OUTSIDE HOTEL, AND PLAN TO TAKE 30 HOSTAGES
TO LARNACA AIRPORT. CRAWFORD
UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

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